

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: White House

Other Name/Site Number: White House

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.

Not for publication:___

City/Town: Washington

Vicinity:___

State: District of Columbia County: District of Columbia Code: 001 Zip Code: 20500

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: ___

Public-Local:___

Public-State:___

Public-Federal: x

Category of Property

Building(s): x

District: ___

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

___ buildings

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:___

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ Entered in the National Register☐ Determined eligible for the National Register☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register☐ Removed from the National Register☐ Other (explain): __________
Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USEHistoric: Domestic
GovernmentSub: Single Dwelling
Executive OfficeCurrent: Domestic
GovernmentSub: Single Dwelling
Executive Office**7. DESCRIPTION**Architectural Classification: Classical
Inspired by Leinster House, Dublin

Materials:

Foundation:

Walls: Light grey sandstone from Aquia Creek, VA
Seneca Sandstone from Maryland (for the Portico's)

Roof:

Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**Summary:**

The White House was designed by architect James Hoban and has been the residence of the President of the United States since the administration of John Adams. The cornerstone of the building was laid on October 13, 1792 making the White House the first public building in the new capital to be erected in Washington D.C. It has also served as the Executive Office.

The White House is located on Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of downtown Washington D.C.. The property is bounded by the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue on the North and by the inner side of Executive Avenue on the east, south and west. The property comprises of approximately 20 acres.

The exterior of the building is of classical design, modeled after Leinster House in James Hoban's native Dublin. When first completed the White House consisted of only the center portion, which was burned by the British during the burning of Washington in 1814. Hoban returned to rebuild the house, and President James Monroe moved in by the fall of 1817. By 1829 both the north portico and south porch were completed, based on a design by Benjamin Latrobe thus bringing the White House profile to its current state.

In 1902 architect Charles McKim's recommendations increased the presidential living space, and created the West Wing (a term that would not come into existence until the 1930's) for the Presidents office and staff, and a new east wing was completed by the 1930's. In the 1950's, under President Truman's administration a major renovation was completed where the interior of the White House was renovated.

The interior space of the White House has changed over time to remain with each administrations tastes and styles. In general the building is three stories high with various rooms devoted to diplomatic, political, residential and governmental functions.

The information above was taken from <http://www.whitehousehistory.org>. Boundary information taken from a prepared NHL form written by Ann Poh, survey historian and Robert F. Fenton's original information from 8-13-59.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National

Register Criteria: A X B X C D

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: Criterion 1

NHL Theme(s): Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Military, Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1792-1955

Significant Dates: October 13, 1792; 1814

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: James Hoban

Historic Contexts:

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Considered to be the most important residence in the United States, the White House has been the home of every president since the administration of John Adams in 1800. The cornerstone of the White House, the first public building to be erected in Washington, was laid on October 13, 1792. The design of the house is the work of architect James Hoban, whose classic design was inspired by the Leinster House in his native city of Dublin.

With certain minor changes and additions, the exterior of the house remains basically the same as when it was completed in 1800. The interior, however, has been changed several times through the years, the latest occurring in 1949-1952 during the administration of President Harry S. Truman when a complete renovation took place. Nevertheless, the historic floor plan has always been retained.

Constructed of light grey sandstone from Aquia Creek, Virginia, the house was painted white after the structure was burned by the British during the attack on Washington, August 24, 1814. Today the White House stands as the physical symbol of the honor and dignity that signifies the highest office in the land. The White House is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The Property falls under Criterion 1 due to its role and place in the establishment of the nations capital but also in the events during the British invasion in 1814. Additionally, the White House is representative of the shifts in national culture and ideals as each administration added its own unique design to the interior space of the building.

First three paragraphs taken from original NHL form written by Robert F. Fenton 8-13-59
Criterion explanation written by Priya Chhaya 8-7-03.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cammerer, H.P. Washington, The National Capitol. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932.

National Capitol Parks, Washington D.C.; White House Files.

Singleton, Esther, The Story of the White House. 2 Vols. New York: The McClure Co., 1907.

White House Historical Society. [www.whitehousehistory.org] August 8, 2003.

Reports and Studies:

Morris, Edwin B.; Report of the Commission on the Renovation of the Executive Mansion (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952)

McClure, Stanley W.; The White House (Washington, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service 1953) HABS.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ Previously Listed in the National Register.
- ☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- ☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ☒ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # HABS DC 37A, HABS DC 37B
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☒ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other (Specify Repository):

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 20 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

Latitude and Longitude Coordinates:

(Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)

	Latitude	Longitude
Northwest	38° 53' 55"	77° 02' 17.5"
Northeast	38° 53' 55"	77° 02' 08"
Southeast	38° 53' 42.5"	77° 02' 08"
Southwest	38° 53' 42.5"	77° 02' 17.5"

Verbal Boundary Description:

The White House is bounded by the south side of Pennsylvania avenue on the north and by the inner side of Executive Avenue on the east, south and west. The Property comprises approximately 20 acres.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary encompasses the historic land associated with the White House.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Robert F. Fenton: Park Historian, N.C.P. (8-13-59)
Anne Poh: Survey Historian

Address:

Telephone:

Date:

Edited by: Priya Chhaya, August 7, 2003.
National Park Service
National Historic Landmarks Survey
1849 C St., N.W.
Room NC-400
Washington, DC 20240

Telephone: (202) 343-

DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
December 19, 1960